Derecognized private/aided high schools

1748. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private/aided high schools derecognized during the last two years, for the lack of required student strength, urban and rural area-wise, separately; and

(b) whether the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has increased the percentage of school attendance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Recognition of schools are granted by the concerned State/UT. Information on de-recognition of schools is not maintained centrally in this Ministry.

(b) Mid-day-Meal programme is one of the several interventions that has facilitated *inter-alia* improvement in enrolment and reduction in dropout rates. As per Selected Educational Statistics, 2004-05 of this Ministry, gross enrolment ratio at the primary stage has improved from 96.3% in 2001-02 to 107.8% in 2004-05 and the dropout rate from Class 1 to 5 has declined from 39.00% in 2001 -02 to 29.00% in 2004-05.

Ban on recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1749. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether there is a ban on recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

if not, the reasons for not filling the vacant posts in many parts of the country as nearly 5,000 posts are reported to be vacant in North Eastern Zone only; and

the steps being taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MIN1STRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (A) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. There are 4850 vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas spread all over India as on 1.2.2008. Out of these, 546 vacancies are in the North Eastern Regions (Guwahati and Silchar). Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has advertised in Janary, 2008 for filling up of teaching posts.

Semester system in universities

1750. DR. M.A.M, RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether, in recent communications to the Vice-Chancellors of Universities, the University Grants Commission has suggested the unviersities to switch over to semester system, in place of the present system;

if so, the details thereof;

whether semester system is in operation in several universities;

if so, the details thereof; and

the benefits of adopting semester system in universities?